



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,115	09/19/2003	Jun Nakajima	HGM-109-A	7647

21828 7590 12/14/2004

CARRIER BLACKMAN AND ASSOCIATES
24101 NOVI ROAD
SUITE 100
NOVI, MI 48375

EXAMINER


BASINGER, SHERMAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3617

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/668,115		NAKAJIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Sherman D. Basinger		3617	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Sherman D. Basinger. (3) _____

(2) Bill Blackman. (4) _____

Date of Interview: 10 December 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 1,8-12 and 15 faxed 12/10/04 and attached.


Identification of prior art discussed: of record.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: claims 9, 10, 12 and 15 contain allowable subject matter.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.


SHERMAN BASINGER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

12/10/04

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Dec 10, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deletions are indicated by strikethrough and/or double brackets, and additions are indicated by underscoring. Please cancel claim 5. Please add new claims 9-11. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 (Currently amended). A battery mounting structure for use in a small watercraft comprising a vessel body having a hull comprising a lower portion of the vessel body, and a deck for covering placement on top of the hull, an engine disposed in the vessel body, a drive shaft extending rearwardly from the engine for driving a propeller, and a drive shaft supporting box for supporting the drive shaft at the midsection thereof,

said battery mounting structure comprising a battery support tray for supportively holding a battery thereon and a contacting member integrally formed with said battery support tray for contacting part of a drive shaft supporting box;

wherein at least part of said battery mounting structure is adapted for placement on top of the drive shaft supporting box;

and wherein the contacting member comprises a contoured alignment section for matingly engaging a corresponding surface of the drive shaft supporting box when the battery support tray is placed thereon.

2 (original). The battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising at least one securing strap for use in securing said battery to said battery support tray.

3 (original). A battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising structure for accommodating any one of a number of different-sized batteries.

4 (original). A battery mounting structure of claim 1, wherein said battery tray comprises a plurality of hooks to receive securing straps thereon to secure a battery to said battery mounting structure.

5. (Currently Amended). A battery mounting structure of claim 1, ~~further comprising drain holes selectively located about the horizontal surface thereof~~ wherein said contoured alignment section comprises a projection extending outwardly on a bottom surface of said battery support tray.

6 (original). The battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising a platform section integrally formed with said battery tray ~~for~~ and configured to supporting a magnet box thereon.

7 (original). The battery mounting structure of claim 6, further comprising at least one reinforcing rib extending between said battery tray and said platform section.

8 (currently amended). A method of mounting a battery in a personal watercraft having a

longitudinal axis, said method comprising the steps of:

a) installing a battery mounting apparatus in said personal watercraft behind an engine and above a drive shaft support box of said watercraft, wherein the battery mounting apparatus comprises a support tray having a contoured alignment section which matingly engages a corresponding surface of the drive shaft supporting box;

b) placing a battery on a the support tray of said battery mounting apparatus, and

c) placing battery restraints on said battery to hold it in place on said support tray, whereby said battery is emplaced proximate the longitudinal axis of said watercraft.

9. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein said contoured alignment section comprises a projection extending outwardly on a bottom surface of said battery tray, and wherein said corresponding surface comprises a recess formed in said drive shaft supporting box.

10. (new) The method of mounting a battery in a personal watercraft of claim 8, wherein during the installation step, the battery support tray is placed in the watercraft such that a first part of said battery mounting structure rests on top of the drive shaft supporting box, and a second part of said battery mounting structure rests on top of an interior surface of a hull of the watercraft.

11 (new). A small watercraft, comprising:
a vessel body having a hull comprising a lower portion of the vessel body, and a deck for covering placement on top of the hull;

an engine disposed in the vessel body;

a drive shaft extending rearwardly from the engine for driving a propeller, and a drive shaft supporting box for supporting a medial portion of the drive shaft, the drive shaft supporting box comprising side walls which are laterally spaced from the hull of the watercraft, the drive shaft supporting box further comprising an upper surface; and

a battery mounting structure comprising:

a battery support tray for supportively holding a battery thereon, and

a contacting member integrally formed with said battery support tray for contacting the drive shaft supporting box, wherein the contacting member comprises a contoured alignment section which matingly engages a corresponding surface of the drive shaft supporting box;

wherein a first part of said battery mounting structure is adapted for placement on top of the drive shaft supporting box, and a second part of said battery mounting structure is adapted for placement on top of an interior surface of the hull.

12. (new) The watercraft of claim 11, wherein the contoured alignment section of the contacting member comprises a projection extending downward from an underside surface of the battery support tray, the projection adapted to be received in the depression of the drive shaft supporting box, so as to maintain the position of battery mounting structure on the drive shaft supporting box.

13. (New) The battery mounting structure of claim 1, wherein said contacting member further comprises a rib extending downwardly from a lower surface of said battery support tray,

and wherein said rib comprises a side surface adapted for abuttingly contacting said drive shaft supporting box when said battery mounting structure is installed in said watercraft.

14. (New) The battery mounting structure of claim 13, wherein said rib extends downwardly below an outboard portion of said battery support tray, and is absent below an inboard portion of said battery support tray.

15. (New) The battery mounting structure of claim 14, wherein said contoured alignment section comprises a projection extending outwardly on a bottom surface of said inboard portion of said battery support tray, for matingly engaging a recess of said drive shaft supporting box.

16. (New) The battery mounting structure of claim 5, further comprising a platform section integrally formed with said battery tray and configured to support a magnet box thereon.

17. (New) The battery mounting structure of claim 16, further comprising at least one reinforcing rib extending between said battery tray and said platform section.